

British Carriage Dog Society

Abridged Rules and Regulations

These abridged rules are designed to present the British Carriage Dog Society Rules and Regulations in a more accessible form. The complete rules and regulations may be downloaded from www.carriagedog.org or obtained from the Society.

Definition and Purpose

The purpose of a Carriage Dog Trial is to demonstrate the use of pedigree Dalmatians as a companion to man in one of the roles that they have been bred to perform. It is a performance event designed to evaluate the Dalmatian's ability to "coach", or follow horses. Entrants qualify their dogs as a handler on horseback, or in a horse-drawn vehicle with dog(s) off lead.

The Kennel Club Breed Standard states, "the Dalmatian should be a carriage dog of good demeanour, capable of great endurance and a fair turn of speed". These qualities are essential to his successful use as a horse/rider and horse/carriage escort.

There are four levels of Competition. The Coaching Certificate evaluates the Dalmatian's ability to coach. The Bronze class evaluates coaching ability at a novice level with a short distance trial. The Silver class evaluates coaching ability and moderate endurance and the Gold class evaluates coaching ability and extended endurance. All classes demonstrate the Dalmatian's ability to behave in public places in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect positively on the sport and the breed.

The dog and entrant must accurately complete the whole Trial course and must conform to these regulations. It is also essential that the dog demonstrates willingness and enjoyment of his work throughout. Carriage Dog Trials are a sport and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship at all times.

In accordance with the certification on the entry form, each competitor must be familiar with the regulations and, by entering the Carriage Dog Trial, agrees to comply with said regulations.

Risk

The owner or agent entering any dog and/or horse in a Carriage Dog Trials does so at his/her own risk. Activities involving horses involve an inherent risk, which is acknowledged by each participant by signing the disclaimer. Neither the British Carriage Dog Society, Trials organisers, nor any land owner nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies, save for the death or injury caused by negligence of the organisers or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, accepts any liability for any incidents, loss, damage or illness to horses, dogs, owners, grooms, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever caused by their negligence, breach of contract, or in any way whatsoever in any British Carriage Dog Society sanctioned Carriage Dog Trial. It is a condition of entry that each entrant shall agree to indemnify the organisers against any legal action arising therefrom. The organisers reserve the right to determine an entrants' riding or driving ability and inspect his turnout before allowing him/her to compete in their Carriage Dog Trial. Should it be determined by the organisers that a rider or driver might present a safety hazard to him/herself, his/her horse, or to others, the rider or driver may be excused from competition. Riders are advised that they may encounter carriages on the course and are required to ensure that their horse is accustomed to them. Whips are requested to show consideration to riders they may encounter on the course. The British Carriage Dog Society assume no responsibility for the financial arrangements of hired horses, or assume no liability for the use of any horse(s) at any Carriage Dog Trial, or for any damage that may be caused by such horses.

Equipment

Attention must be paid to the fit, safety and soundness of harness and tack.

Carriage Dog: Safety helmets must be worn at all times when on a horse drawn vehicle. Spares must be carried.

Road Dog: Competitors and escorts must wear safety helmets at all times when mounted and riding boots or shoes with at least a ½ inch heel.

Use of Collar and Lead

Dogs should be kept on a lead when not competing. Dogs may be brought to the starting line on a lead if the competitor chooses. The competitor must remove the lead before crossing the starting line and will be disqualified if it is re-attached to the dog on the endurance or obedience course without the authorisation of the organisers or judge. Dogs should be kept on a lead when brought into the ring to receive awards. Dogs may only wear a smooth collar when competing. It is required by law that each dog wears an identification tag in a public place.

Escorts and Grooms

Carriage Dog: Entrants may qualify their dogs as a whip or in a vehicle driven by some one else. In the silver and gold class the entrant will not be eligible for the competitive element of the trial unless they are competing as the whip. An adult whip must be accompanied by a groom aged 14 years or more on the day of the event. A junior whip must be aged 16 years or more and must be accompanied by an able bodied, experienced groom aged 18 years or more on the day of the event.

If the entrant competes as groom s/he must face in the same direction as the horse, be competent and familiar with emergency procedure. The groom whether competitor or not may be questioned at the harness check and the organizers are at liberty to prohibit any turnout from continuing if it is felt that the groom is unsatisfactory. The non-competitor whip or groom will not be allowed to give any commands or signals to any of the entered dogs or interfere

in any way with the proceedings of the trials except in an emergency.

Road Dog: For his/her safety and enjoyment, a ridden competitor entered in the bronze, silver or gold classes is encouraged to choose an un-entered companion to ride on horseback. The escort must ride in such a way as to not interfere with the competitor, his dog(s), the mounted judge or the Course Judge or these judges' line of vision during any portion of the Road Trial. Any mounted escort must remain at a predetermined waiting area during the judging of the exercises. The escort may join the competitor team after the judging of the exercises has been completed. This escort shall be subject to act in accordance with these Regulations. Any escort may not at any time give any commands or signals to any of the entered dogs and must sign a disclaimer and agree to abide by the Carriage Dog Trials rules and regulations.

In both road and carriage dog classes the competitor must handle the entered dog(s) on the obedience and the endurance element of the competition.

It is the responsibility of each competitor to be ready with his/her dog(s) and horse at the Start/Finish vet checkpoint when required, without being called and allowing time for the starting vet checks to be completed before his/her scheduled judging time.

Eligibility and General Requirements

Coaching Certificate Test:

A dog may not be entered in the Coaching Certificate Test and a bronze, silver or gold class of the same discipline at the same Trial. Any entered dog that has not yet earned a Road or Carriage Dog title and receives a qualifying score in each of the judged exercises, but fails to complete the course, shall be awarded the Coaching Certificate. The Coaching Certificate Test shall be conducted after all entrants for other classes have completed the obedience exercises, all exercises are to be judged pass/fail. No vet checks are required, but the mounted judge may excuse a dog as provided in the Regulations Chapter 1.14 To earn the Coaching Certificate Title, a dog must earn a "Pass" rating in all five obedience exercises.

In all the obedience tests for the Coaching Certificate, Bronze Road Dog and Bronze Carriage Dog extra commands and encouragement will not be penalised. This is designed to help the novice dogs in their work and to set down a solid foundation on which to build for future tests at a higher level.

General Requirements

Carriage or Road Dog Bronze:

Dogs entered in the bronze class shall be required to pass:

- an initial vet check
- a qualifying score in all of the five obedience exercises
- 10 km within a time limit of 80 minutes
- A qualifying score at the final vet check

Carriage or Road Dog Silver

Dogs entered in the Silver class shall be required to pass:

- an initial vet exam
- a qualifying score in all of the five obedience exercises
- 20 km within a time limit of three hours excluding the time required for the Mid-Point vet check
- A qualifying score at the final vet check

Carriage or Road Dog Gold

Dogs entered in the Gold Class shall be required to pass:

- an initial vet check
- a qualifying score in all of the five obedience exercises
- 40 km within a time limit of 6 hours, excluding the time required for the Mid-Point vet check
- A qualifying score at the final vet check

It is the responsibility of the competitor to properly condition each dog to compete at this distance within this time frame. Dogs need not be in hock or axle during the endurance trial but must remain under the control of the competitor and be in hock or axle through all timed check points.

Exercises, Tests, and Scoring

Hock/Axle Position

Carriage: Axle position as used in these regulations shall mean that the dog shall be in a semicircle behind the horse's head in line with the direction in which the horse and carriage are facing, and as close as practicable without crowding or obstructing the horse's motion and within one horse's length of the carriage. The dog may be running under, behind, or next to the carriage, but it is of paramount importance that the dog should be running in a position that is both safe and comfortable.

Road: Hock position as used in these Regulations means that the dog shall be in a semi-circle behind the horse's head in line with the direction in which the competitor and horse are facing and as close as practicable without crowding or obstructing the horse's motion and within one horse's length of the horse. The dog shall not go ahead of the horse's head during the Hock or Distraction exercises.

Exercises and Scoring

The exercises for all classes are:

Carriage Dog

1. Axle
2. Distraction
3. Stay
4. Willingness to work
5. Speed

Road Dog

- Hock
- Distraction
- Long Sit or Down
- Recall
- Speed

The scoring for each of the exercises 1-5 is:

Score 51-100 = Pass

Score 0-50 = Fail

n.b. The Coaching Certificate exercises receive no score, but to gain the title a dog must receive a "Pass" rating in all exercises.

Tests are:

1. Start vet check
2. Mid-Point vet check (silver and gold classes only)
3. Final vet check
4. Completion of required distance within the time limit

The scoring for the start and midpoint tests is pass or fail

The scoring for the final vet check is: 51-100 points = Pass/ 0-50 points = Fail

Qualifying Score in each test

- + 8 Pass Ratings required in the bronze class
- + 9 Pass Ratings required in the silver class
- + 9 Pass Rating required in the gold class

At the discretion of the mounted judge, the Hock/Axle, Distraction, Recall/Willingness to work, and Long Sit or down/Stay exercises may be judged in any order. The Speed exercise shall be judged last.

Starting, Mid-Point, and Final Vet Checks

The principle feature of the vet checks is to determine that the dog is in sound condition before beginning the course, while traversing the course, and after completing the course. These tests shall be conducted by the vet(s) as described in Chapter 5. At the Mid-Point vet check, each team shall be allowed a rest period of at least 5 minutes, but not to exceed 30 minutes, as described in Chap. 5.7.

Any dog that, in the vet's opinion, requires more than a 30 minute rest period shall be excused from further competition in the Trial. The vet shall also check each horse for any signs of stress or lameness, and any horse that, in the vet's opinion, requires more than a 30 minute rest period shall be excused from further competition in the Trial. Another horse may be substituted if such horse is available within a reasonable time frame, as described in Chapter 1.14.

Starting and Mid-point Vet Checks: Scoring

No points are awarded at the Starting vet check and the Mid-Point vet check. The Starting and Mid-Point checks are "Pass/Fail". A dog must receive a "Fail" and be excused from further competition in the Trial if it exhibits any lameness or excessive stress during these tests as described in Chapter 5. If the vet is satisfied that a dog's condition is sound after conducting the tests, he/she shall give the dog a "Pass" rating.

Final Vet Check: Scoring

At the Final vet check, each dog will receive a score of up to 100 points. A dog must receive a "Fail" (0-50) if, in the opinion of the Start/Finish vet, the dog is in distress and needs immediate medical attention. If the vet is satisfied that a dog's condition is sound after conducting the tests, he shall give the dog a "Pass" (51-100) rating. When scoring a dog after the Final vet check, the Start/Finish vet shall compare the baseline information recorded for each dog on the Start/Finish score sheet, the information recorded on any Mid-Point vet score sheet, and the condition of the dog at the Final vet check, in order to rate each dog's overall condition within a scale of 0-100 points.

Hock/Axle Exercise

Carriage:

The principal feature of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to stay close to the horse and carriage when required. The Axle Exercise for the Coaching Certificate test and bronze and silver classes shall be at walk and trot over a distance of 200 metres, in as straight a line as is practicable, if the terrain permits. Markers shall serve as a general guide, but the mounted judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over their location. Orders for the exercise are, "This will be the Axle Exercise, are you ready?" "Commence the exercise" and "Exercise Finished". The mounted judge shall standardize as much as practical the place on the course that each dog is required to work. The mounted judge will announce the exercise and asks if the competitor is ready. When the competitor replies, "Ready," or "Yes," the mounted judge will proceed with the orders. On the mounted judge's order the competitor may give each dog a single command to fall into the Axle position, where the dog(s) shall remain while continuing forward. The competitor may praise his/her dog(s) as the team continues forward, and may give additional commands, if necessary, recognizing that additional commands and praise during exercises will be scored accordingly. The dog(s) shall remain in the Axle position, without swinging wide, lagging, forging ahead, or coming so close to the horse and carriage as to interfere with forward motion. At the approximate completion of the required distance, the mounted judge shall

command "Exercise Finished". The mounted judge shall remain at least twenty metres away from any dog.

Road:

The principal feature of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to stay close to the horse and competitor when required. The Hock Exercise for the Coaching Certificate test and bronze and silver classes shall be 200 metres; in as straight a line as is practicable, if the terrain permits. Markers shall serve as a general guide, but the mounted judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over their location. Orders for the exercise are, "This will be the Hock Exercise, are you ready?" "Call your dog to Hock ", "Commence the exercise", and "Exercise Finished". The mounted judge shall standardize as much as practical the place on the course that each dog is required to "Hock ". When the mounted judge announces the exercise and asks if the competitor is ready, the mounted judge and competitor shall be moving forward. When the competitor replies, "Ready," or "Yes," the mounted judge will proceed with the orders. On the mounted judge's order the competitor shall call each dog in and then give each dog a single command to fall into the Hock position, where the dog(s) shall remain while continuing forward. Once in Hock position, the competitor may begin a brisk trot with the mounted judge. The competitor may praise his/her dog(s) as the team continues forward, and may give additional commands, if necessary, recognizing that additional commands and praise during exercises will be scored accordingly. The dog(s) shall remain in Hock position, without swinging wide, lagging, forging ahead, or coming so close to the horse as to interfere with forward motion. The team shall continue forward at a trot for up to 200 metres. At the approximate completion of the required distance, the mounted judge shall command "Exercise Finished". The mounted judge shall remain at least twenty metres away from any dog.

Hock/Axle Exercise: Gold Classes

The gold Hock/Axle exercise shall be conducted in the same manner as the other classes except that the 200 metres distance shall consist of a figure 8, when practicable, or a 200 metre distance with at least two turns.

The gold HOCK/AXLE exercise shall be marked at the start, turns, and finish, at the discretion of the organisers. These markers shall serve as a general guide, and the mounted judge's orders shall in all cases take precedence over the location of the trail markers.

Hock/Axle Exercise: Scoring

If a dog is unmanageable, or refuses to Hock/Axle, the dog must be scored zero on this exercise.

Substantial deductions shall be made for excessively loud or gruff commands or signals to Hock/Axle, or if a competitor adapts his horse's pace to that of the dog. Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for such things as lagging, forging, interfering with the horse or vehicle's forward movement, and/or going wide or excessive barking. Substantial deductions shall be made for a dog that goes ahead of the horse during this exercise, but who drops back into Hock/Axle position on command. Minor deductions may be made for repeated commands or praise during the Hock/Axle Exercise.

Distraction Exercise

The principal feature of this exercise is to demonstrate a dog's ability to remain under the competitor's voice control in the event of a distraction. Orders are, "This will be the Distraction Exercise, are you ready?" "Commence exercise" and "Exercise Finished." The Distraction Exercise may be judged at a trot, at the competitor's discretion. On signal from the mounted judge, a hiker with a dog on a lead shall start walking toward the approaching competitor, but while remaining on the competitor's right side, at least twenty metres away, while passing. The competitor shall continue forward with his dog(s) in Hock/Axle position from the previous exercise, and shall be allowed to command each dog to "Hock/Axle" when he has noticed the approaching distraction. When the competitor and his dog(s) have gone past the distraction dog approximately five metres, the mounted judge shall indicate that the exercise is finished, and the competitor may release his dog(s).

The distraction dog handler shall remain on the down-course side of the competing team until after the mounted judge has completed judging the remaining exercise(s) and has started back toward the course start.

Distraction Exercise: Scoring

A dog must receive a score of zero if it attacks the on-coming hiker or dog, or if it disregards its competitor's command to Hock/Axle. Substantial or minor deductions shall be made if a dog barks repeatedly at the distraction (a single warning bark shall not be penalized), if it starts to approach the distraction but comes back to Hock/Axle on command, if it displays shyness, or if it moves out of Hock/Axle Position. Minor deductions may be made for repeated commands or praise during the Distraction exercise.

Long Sit, Down or Stay Exercise

Carriage:

The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate the dog's ability to wait under his competitor's control until released. Orders are, "This will be the Stay Exercise, are you ready?" "Commence the exercise" and "Exercise Finished." If more than one dog is judged at the same time for this exercise, the competitor may give a separate command to each dog. The competitor may choose to have a steward or the groom hold the horse(s)' head(s) before the exercise begins and while waiting for a period of one minute. On order from the mounted judge, the competitor shall call his dog(s), and command each dog to stay. The mounted judge and any competitor's escort must remain at least 6 metres away from the dog(s). After one minute from the time the competitor has given the "Stay" command, the mounted judge shall say, "Exercise Finished." The dog(s) should not move from the stay position until the competitor has released them after the mounted judge has said, "Exercise Finished."

Road:

The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate the dog's ability to wait under his competitor's control until released. Orders are, "This will be the one minute Sit or Down Exercise, are you ready?" "Commence the exercise" and "Exercise Finished." If more than one dog is judged at the same time for this exercise, the competitor may give a separate command to each dog. The competitor may choose to remain mounted or may choose to dismount after the "Stay" command has been given, and hold the horse(s)' head(s) throughout the remainder of the exercise. If the competitor remains mounted he/she may choose to move the horse(s) away from the dog(s) after the "Stay" command is given, as long as he/she does not interfere with the mounted judge's line of vision. On order from

the mounted judge, the competitor shall call his dog(s), command each dog to sit or down, and command each dog to stay. It shall be the competitor's choice whether to command each dog to sit, or to down, and different dogs on the same team may be given different commands. After placing his dogs in a sit or down, the competitor shall assure that his horse does not come so close to the dogs as to threaten their safety, while waiting for a period of one minute. The mounted judge and any competitor's escort must remain at least 6 metres away from the dog(s). Neither the competitor nor his/her escort shall move in any position that might interfere with the mounted judge's line of vision during this exercise. If a dog gets up and starts to roam, or if a dog moves so as to interfere with another dog, the mounted judge shall promptly instruct one of the stewards to place the dog on a lead and take the dog aside and away from the other dogs on the team until the exercise is finished. After one minute from the time the competitor has given the "Stay" command, the mounted judge shall say, "Exercise Finished." The dog(s) should not move from the sit or down position until the competitor has released them after the mounted judge has said, "Exercise Finished."

Long Sit or Down/Stay Exercise: Scoring

During this exercise, the mounted judge's horse shall stand in such position that all the dogs are in his line of vision, and where he can see the competitor without having to turn around. Scoring of this exercise shall begin as soon as the competitor responds "Yes," or "Ready," to the mounted judge's question of "Are you ready?" Timing of the exercise shall begin after all dogs on the team have responded to the competitor's command to sit, down or stay, and as soon as the competitor has given the command to "Stay". A competitor whose dog assumes a position in such a manner that it could interfere with an adjacent dog, or be too close to a horse for safety, shall be required to reposition his dog. A score of zero is required for the following: a dog's refusing to Sit or Down/Stay, moving at any time during the exercise a substantial distance away from the place where it was left, or going over to any other dog. A substantial or minor deduction shall be made for a dog that moves a minor distance away from the place where it was left; for barking or whining during the exercise; for resisting its competitor's command to Sit or Down/Stay; for not remaining in the position that was commanded or for overly loud or gruff commands by the competitor to Sit, Down, and/or Stay. A minor deduction may be made for commands or praise repeated during this exercise.

Willingness to Work Exercise

Carriage:

The principal feature of this exercise is to replicate the beginning of a drive and test the dog's willingness to work with the carriage. The competitor will be asked by the judge to leave the carriage with his dog/s. The steward and/or the groom must assist and be at the horses head during this exercise. Orders are, "This will be the Willingness to work exercise, are you ready?" "leave your vehicle" "return to your vehicle" and "Exercise Finished." On order from the mounted judge, the competitor will give a command for each dog to return to the vehicle with their dog(s) and walk forward. Each dog must come straight in at a brisk trot or gallop to the carriage and stay while the horse walks forward a short distance. The mounted judge shall remain at least twenty metres away from the competitor's horse(s).

Road:

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog responds promptly to the competitor's command to "Come". Orders are, "This will be the Recall Exercise, are you ready?" "Call your dog," and, "Exercise Finished." When the dog has run naturally in front, or has dropped back a good distance behind the competitor's horse(s), on order from the mounted judge, the competitor will give a command for each dog to come while his horse is still moving forward at a walk. Each dog must come straight in at a brisk trot or gallop to the competitor's left or right side. On the mounted judge's order, the competitor may release his dog. The mounted judge shall remain at least twenty metres away from the competitor's horse(s).

Recall Exercise: Scoring

A dog must be scored zero for failure to come when called. Substantial deductions shall be made for a slow response to the "Come", varying with the extent of the slowness, and for a dog that comes partially in and then runs away once again before being released by his competitor. Minor to substantial deductions shall be made for dogs whose competitors repeat the command to come, or who continue talking to the dog as it comes.

Speed Exercise

The principal feature of this exercise shall be to demonstrate a dog's ability to exhibit a fair amount of speed, as described in the Kennel Club's Standard for the breed, sufficient to keep pace with a galloping horse. One such demonstration shall be sufficient. Orders are, "This will be the Speed Exercise, are you ready?" "Call your dog(s) and commence the exercise," "Exercise finished" (which may be indicated by trail markers). On order from the mounted judge or a steward acting on signal from the mounted judge, the competitor shall call his dog(s) close to his horse(s) or vehicle. The total distance of the Speed Exercise shall be one hundred metres. At the start of the measured distance and on order from the steward, the competitor shall increase his speed first to a working canter, allowing his dog(s) to run in any position they choose whilst remaining under control. When the competitor has passed the trail marker indicating the completion of this exercise, he shall reduce his speed. After completion of the Speed Exercise, the competitor shall look back to obtain a signal from the mounted judge. The team may be re-judged if the mounted judge does not deem that the horse's speed was sufficient to determine the dog's speed. At the completion of the exercise, the mounted judge will inform the competitor whether each dog has passed or failed this exercise. The mounted judge shall be situated in such a way as to not frighten the horse(s), preferably at a mid-way, elevated point. The mounted judge's steward(s) shall be instructed to remain quiet and still during this exercise.

Carriage: Competitors will need to accustom their horses to canter in harness. The dog must run in a position that is safe.

Bronze and Coaching Certificate: Competitors will be asked to show an increase in pace only.

Speed Exercise: Scoring

A dog shall be scored zero for not attempting to keep up with the horse(s) or vehicle, or if the competitor/horse does not exhibit any increase in speed. Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for nipping at the horse(s) or vehicle; for falling increasingly behind the horse(s) or vehicle; for repeated barking; or for a competitor who adjusts his horse's pace to that of the dog(s).

At the completion of each exercise, the mounted judge will inform the competitor whether each dog has passed or failed the particular Exercise.

- Awards open to pedigree Dalmatians of not less than twelve months on day of competition.
- A dog that is blind or deaf to the extent that it is, in the opinion of the organisers or vet not able to participate safely in the competition, may not enter.
- All equines must be aged 4 years or older.
- No bitches in season allowed on the show ground.
- Mobile phones must be carried.
- Only dogs entered in the trial and the distraction dog shall be allowed within the obedience area.
- A judge or vet will disqualify any dog that attempts to attack any person, horse or another dog on the grounds and the dog shall immediately be removed from the course.
- A competitor must not offer his dog food on the obedience course.
- No extending leads to be used at any time when mounted on horse or carriage.
- No equine to be tied up while put to.
- The organisers reserve the right to: refuse any entry without stating a reason, amend the rules prior to the competition, substitute judges, cancel or change any class or alter the course for any reason whatsoever.
- The decision of the judge or vet shall be final.

In the case of a tie, the dog with the highest vet score will be placed the highest.

Competitors are advised to familiarise themselves with the full rules and regulations.